

RUSSIA \

They went, after years of general, and months of inert intensive preparation At any time in the eail\ months of 1932, a visitor to Passfield Corner found them m a <ca of books on Russia—all of which they had read and anah^cd possessed of elaborate chaits the\ had dia\vn out, sho\sirg all the features of the complicated constitution, and equipped with a series of arguments, points and questions The\ had selected their field of study—the institutions of the USSR—and they knew so much about it that it might ha\e appeared to most that they had little left to leain The) had theories, which they were going to test, and a ie?ll\ vast knowledge, which set those theories in their background He had even learned a little Russian, but they \vere not relying on that

They set forth in the latter part of May, and spent sixt\ days in the country, travelling from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and from the Polish border to the Caspian The) sa\v the towns, the factories and some big State farms, the) did not see, or try to see, the villages In pursuit of their \ie\\ that if you go to Russia, or anywhere else, you must con-centrate on something, and in conformity \with their natural angle of interest, they concentrated on institutions They left Museums and art alone, they expressly left out of their view the Revolution, and the Terroi Into the argument— Can a country get to where the U S S R now is by any other route⁹—they have refused, so far, to be drawn Every now and then they drop such a remark as

"People in Russia, even ordinary \orkmen,

aie very conscious
that there are no Rights of Man—any
more than there are in
America "

Against which may be set another remark that
of the old
fisherman whom they asked whether he felt
better off now
than he had done, under the Czar? He was
thoughtful,
then he said